

# THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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## Recent survey results show most in favor of August school start

Melissa Sierra  
Assistant Editor

A notable change occurred this fall among public schools as Sioux Falls voters elected to change the district start date from mid-August to after Labor day.

However, this change did not impact the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools (SFCS) and the regular school calendar has been maintained.

The SFCS board seek student, parent, and faculty input on whether a start date change is necessary in order to follow public school suit.

SFCS recently sent out a survey to faculty, parents, and students for input on school start times. An overwhelming majority selected the original start date (mid-late August) as their top choice.

Assistant Principal Joan Mahoney noted this distinction between Sioux Falls Public Schools and SFCS in terms of calendar dates.

"Our calendar has never aligned with the public schools, so I don't think it is necessary to align with them at this time," said Mahoney. "We have always started at different times, and our breaks throughout the year often do not coincide with the public schools."

As an opponent of the proposed change last April, Mr. Ken Lindemann recognizes the impact a change may have on O'Gorman's active student body.

"Because activities start so early in August, and such a large percentage of our students are in those activities, moving the start date back has the effect of shortening the summer," said Lindemann.

Junior Jake Meyer voiced similar concerns for how a later start date would impact his school life.

"All fall sports would start before school, so my school soccer season would almost be over by the time school starts," said Meyer.

Sophomore Emily Wilde stated different concerns for how a change would impact schooling, pointing to her main issue being semester testing.

"The current start date has finals starting before Christmas, which works well for me," said Wilde.

While public schools were required to adjust calendars, SFCS kept its initial start date. Lindemann is in favor of how SFCS has handled the date change.

"I feel that SFCS has done a very effective job of making sure this didn't become a highly emotional issue among its stakeholders," said Lindemann.



KNIGHT SCROLL

FANS IN THE STANDS. Fans cheer on the Knights at the state football championship game at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion. The Knights lost to Washington 27-24.

## School's big fundraiser sees overhaul, new name

Connor Bell  
Assistant Editor

The magazine drive has some new twists and turns this year starting with a new name change: Knight Drive. Along with a name change there are new incentives to help students sell.

"Solidarity is what makes a school strong and I feel that the new name and prizes will help embody what the magazine drive is really about," said Ms. Michelle Shields.

The major incentive for the underclassmen is the opportunity to earn money towards college

tuition by selling magazines.

The students can earn up to \$2,500 a year. While seniors are not eligible for this option there are still some rewards for the upperclassmen. The promise of open campus is the main prize the upperclassmen are trying to achieve.

A trip to the Scheels Iceplex is also a prize for the top advisors. Students and faculty are eager to compete with each other for the prizes.

"I enjoy how hyped the school gets us for the drive, and it brings us together as a school, and teamwork plays a huge role in the drive," said senior Josie

Johnson. "I look forward to seeing how much money we can bring in this year because it shows how hard we worked as a school."

"We are eager to sell and show the rest of the school that we can keep up with them and sell just as much as they can," said sophomore Gabbi Holbert.

With the magazine drive usually lasting over Thanksgiving break, the timeline has changed along with the rest of the drive. The drive started in early November and ended before Thanksgiving break.

## Political races heating up as primaries near

### Crowded Republican field looks to thin out as primaries begin in January

Connor Bell  
Assistant Editor

On Nov. 8, 2016, millions of Americans will vote for the 45th President of the United States. Less than a year away, the election has candidates campaigning frantically.

Technology has brought on new difficulties for candidates. Issues that were previously rarely brought up are now the center of debates including the issue of police brutality.

Some candidates, like Democrat Bernie Sanders, have used this to their advantage, using social media to target young voters and those disenfranchised with government.

Major issues such as marriage equality, terrorism and foreign policy are focal

points for America in its decision. Republicans Ben Carson and Donald Trump both strongly advocate against same sex marriage while Hillary Clinton and Sanders are both activists for the LGBT+ community.

In light of recent events in Paris, terrorism has become a more centered topic than before and America is tuning in to see what the candidates say.

Candidates from across the country of all different parties are campaigning but four candidates stand out in polls.

First is Republican Carson. After a career as a neurosurgeon, Carson made a big step and announced he is running for office in 2016. He has a traditional, more conservative campaign.

"While Carson may have some interesting points, many of his ideas are a bit

unusual," said freshman Jonathan Moore.

Second is Sanders. He has been a Senator in Vermont since 2007 but is originally from Brooklyn, N.Y. Sanders is a popular liberal contender and attracts the likes of young voters everywhere. He has been trailing behind Clinton since the beginning of his campaign but a recent spike in polls has boosted him to the closest difference between himself and Clinton.

"Sanders is a really good advocate for minorities and he would be a good choice for America," said juniors Nick McCoy and Sam Kooima.

Third is businessman Trump. He rose to fame thanks to his real estate company in New York City. "Trump may be capable of running his own business, but running a country is much more complex," said Moore.

He has polled at the top of the Republican party most of his campaign. After a slight dip to Carson, Trump has bounced back and is rising in polls while Carson is dropping.

Lastly is Clinton. She is a former First Lady, former Secretary of State, and ran for election in 2008 against current President Barack Obama. If elected, Clinton would be the first female president and first former First Lady turned president.

Other Republican candidates at the top of the polls are Ted Cruz, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Carly Fiorina. In the Democratic party, the only other candidate is Martin O'Malley of Maryland.

The next Republican debate is Dec. 15 on CNN and the next Democratic debate is Dec. 19 on ABC.

# Students for Life seeks to protect life of all ages through prayer, protest

Kelsey Butler  
Staff Writer

Students for Life (SFL) is an organization that is nationally recognized for being dedicated to witnessing, defending, and protecting life of all ages. SFL does many activities to help raise awareness of abortion and help to end it.

“This year we have worked hard to promote awareness of issues that threaten life,” said Jonathan Konz, a SFL leader. October is respect life month, and SFL members, along with anyone else who wanted to join, attended the annual Life Chain on 41st street to show they care about the unborn.

“My favorite part of Students for Life is seeing students so passionate in fighting for life, for faith and for a positive change in the world,” said Konz. “There are a lot of nonsense fights that people choose to wage. The Starbucks cup controversy, for example. Or, when our pride gets pricked because so-and-so said this or that. It is inspiring to me to see our students take action on real issues in country and in our world.”

It was the Students for Life who tied the pink and blue ribbons on all of the cars in the O’Gorman parking lot to also help raise awareness of the abortion issue.

Chalking the sidewalks of the O’Gorman campus with prolife messages is another action students take to remind people of what is going on in today’s world with abortion.

They also invited the entire school to participate in spiritually adopting a child. SFL is currently getting ready for their cemetery of innocents.

There are 600 babies killed every year in South Dakota due to abortion. Students will be decorating lower K-wing as a visual representation of this statistic. About 18% of all abortions each year in the United States are performed on teenagers.

Students for Life is an eye opening organization that does all it can to raise awareness for the unborn and other issues.

Over 100,000 people gather every year in Washington, D.C. to march and protest abortion. Konz encourages everyone to sign up to join the March 4 Life in Washington, D.C. this January.

This annual opportunity allows individuals to grow in their faith and have an amazing experience with this generation, the prolife generation.

Registration forms for March 4 Life are able to be picked up in Campus Ministry or call Mary Anderson in the Diocesan office to get more information: (605) 988-3766

# Christian service makes impact as seniors help others in need

Shreya Chandran  
Editor-in-Chief

Christian service remains a popular senior theology class and for some students, it has had a significant impact.

Senior Regina Fischer is assigned to LifeScape (South Dakota Achieve), working with adults with disabilities.

“I decided to take Christian service because I knew that serving others could teach me a lot about my faith that I couldn’t learn in a classroom.”

Christian service takes place over the course of two periods every day, so Fischer was able to interact regularly with the adults she aided.

“Every day when I arrive at my service site, I get to see my friends’ faces light up. They are always so excited to just sit, play board games, and talk. It brings me a lot of joy to know they appreciate my friendship so much,” said Fischer.

Not only does Fischer get to help the people she works with, but she also learns from them as well.

“I have learned a lot about not judging others. At first glance, it is easy to focus on the limitations, whether they be mental or physical, of these men and women. However, building friendships with them has taught



Regina Fischer



Tiegen Lindner

me that these limitations do not define them. What they can do is more important than what they can’t.”

Students participating in Christian Service are assigned to a variety of sites. Senior Tiegen Lindner was able to return to his former elementary school for his service.

“I decided to take this class to reach out to the community of Sioux Falls and share my Christian background. It just so happened that I ended up in my old sixth grade classroom so that was fun,” said Lindner.

Though his experience of Christian service, Lindner has learned something from the students.

“I have gained an understanding of patience while helping younger kids in school. It was a great experience working with

Mrs. Krier’s sixth grade class and being able to help them the best I could throughout the semester.”

Being able to spend time with younger students every week has been rewarding for Lindner.

“Each day after Christian service, you get a good feeling inside knowing that you helped someone out and hopefully made their day better,” said Lindner.

For these students, Christian Service is not about the credit, but rather the ability to serve others.

“Jesus teaches us that in order to serve Him, we must serve the least in our midst. I have loved every second of Christian service and I am so glad I took this class,” said Fischer.

## Knight Scroll Staff

Editor-in-Chief  
Shreya Chandran

Assistant Editors  
Melissa Sierra  
Connor Bell

Staff Writers  
Joe Angerhofer  
Nyanwel Arop  
Nicolette Boyum  
Kelsey Butler  
Rebecca Clark  
Carter Edman  
Ethan French  
Taylor Houston

Adviser  
Jason A. Van Engen

Contact  
Email:  
jvanengen@sfcss.org

Address:  
Knight Scroll  
Sioux Falls Catholic Schools  
3201 S. Kiwanis Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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KNIGHT LEGEND

Alice greets a fellow character in this year's children's show, *Dorothy in Wonderland*.

## Two fairy tale worlds collide as Dorothy meets Wonderland

Shreya Chandran  
Editor-in-Chief

This year's children's play, *Dorothy in Wonderland*, took place from Nov. 21-22.

The play was originally set to premier on the previous Friday, but was canceled due to bad weather.

"I was a little disappointed that we were unable to perform that day but I am really happy with how it went the next two days," said senior Kelly Maxwell.

*Dorothy in Wonderland* is a combination of the classic tales of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*.

"I am always looking for something new to do. When I read this script, I thought it was interesting how the playwright was able to blend together the characters from different worlds," said director Scott Nelson.

The cast met nearly every day

for practice. While the actors were on stage, other students were hard at work creating costumes or building sets.

"Part of the reason this play was so much fun was because the costumers and techies worked so hard to make this play look great," said senior Emmy Bear.

Even with a short timeline, students were dedicated to memorizing their lines and attended all the practices diligently.

"This year's cast was determined to make things happen," said Nelson.

The children's show is meant to be a shorter play so that smaller children do not have to sit still for very long.

"I love being able to make the little kids laugh and meeting them after the show is always rewarding," said senior Sean Miles.

While the colorful costumes and intricate sets are exciting, Nelson says the most important

part of children's show is the group of people involved.

"I just love how a cast can come together to grow as a group to create a final product. From backstage buddies to eating together before a show, the students bonded to make it their show," said Nelson.

Despite the unexpected snowfall, the cast and crew have enjoyed the time putting together a show.

"I really loved this year's show because I got to perform with my best friends," said junior Cassie Schoenhard.

While next year's show has not yet been decided, students are already excited to create more memories.

"I would love to be in the play again next year and put on another entertaining performance," said junior Sam Billion.

## Mario meets O'G as students start video game club

Grace Wallin  
Staff Writer

This year the library is hosting a new video game club which welcomes students as well as teachers.

The idea for the club came from sophomore Luke Geis after his close friend Zach Thie was diagnosed with asthma and diabetes, making him unable to participate in sports.

"I came up with the idea to get Zach and many more students involved with something they enjoy and at least have fun," said Geis. "The main idea is to spend time with others."

Geis's idea became a reality when Mrs. Johnson agreed to supervise the club meetings every Wednesday and Friday

in the Library. Since the club's first meeting it has attracted more than 35 members.

During meetings students play games with their friends on various consoles provided by the students as well as discuss ideas for new games to get students involved.

"We play Super Smash Brothers on GameCube and Wii U and we recently purchased the new Star Wars Battlefront for ps4," says Geis. "We hope to see a good turn out for it."

In addition to this, Geis hopes to organize a tournament for teachers to play against students.

The video game club is open to anyone and is a fun way to get involved and spend time with others.

## Ovation! embraces change for upcoming season as new directors begin

Melissa Sierra  
Assistant Editor

had to adapt to not only one, but two new directors.

"We have a new director and band director, which we will have to adjust to," said junior James Nelson.

Ovation! attributes past success to leadership, recognizing its importance during rehearsals and outside of school.

"We are led really well by our vocal captains, Anna Picasso and Chris Schall," said Sommervold. "They both work really hard and push us to do our best."

Nelson cites Ovation!'s success to the regular 'team bonding' among members, coming in the form of long rehearsals and various retreats.

"The more we are bonded, the better we work as a team and are all on the same page," said Nelson.

Dardis is optimistic for the continuation of the season, excited to watch her students "come together as a group to overcome their obstacles."

Ovation! will debut its adventure-themed show at its first competition, December 11 at Sioux Falls Washington High School.

As their first competition nears, Ovation! is hard at work perfecting dance moves and practicing solos.

Director Brittany Dardis recognizes the importance of work ethic during rehearsals

"Each week we determine the most important things we need to accomplish," said Dardis, "As we are getting closer to competition season, we are now more 'nit-picky,' focusing on cleaning choreography and vocals."

During competition, show choirs are judged based on a variety of criteria including interpretation, balance, blend, rhythm, and choreography. The "strength and energy" behind choreography is an important aspect O'Gorman show choirs keep in mind.

"We are smaller this year, with fewer guys," said senior Alison Sommervold. "We will have to work harder to fill up the stage."

Ovation! does face new obstacles emerging since previous seasons. Along with the loss of senior members, Ovation! has

## Choral department set to host Vespers in Dr. Lorang Performing Arts Center

Nyanwel Arop  
Staff Writer

Vespers is a service of evening prayer and music held at O'Gorman in the Lorang Theatre. All chorus and a few band students will take part in the evening prayer.

"Vespers sets the tone for Christmas season and allows our students and select faculty to get involved in sharing that opportunity with our community," said choral director, Rachael Kramer.

The choir department welcomes all faculty, students, family and the public to come to this event which takes place on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Vespers admission is free, although people are welcome to donate as well.

"I am excited for the opportunity to perform

with the whole choral department and display the progress we have made," said senior Anna Picasso.

This event is the main O'Gorman chorus concert held for the semester.

"Within each song, people can reestablish their faith through lyrics that glorify God and the songs are a really powerful form of prayer," said Picasso. About 500-600 people usually attend this event and more are encouraged to come.

"The reason we attend a Catholic school is to celebrate our faith in God and the hope of salvation that He brought to the world with Jesus, which is exactly why we annually celebrate Christmas Vespers at O'Gorman," said Kramer.

"For most students, Vespers is a way to use our talents and gifts as offerings to God. That kind of meaning results in beautiful music," said Picasso.



# Senior ready for final season

Carter Edman  
Staff Writer

The O’Gorman Knights basketball team is looking to make waves this year led by nine seniors.

One of those seniors is Ben Lauer. Lauer is a 6’6”center and one of the many leaders for this Knights team. Lauer transferred schools his freshman year from Spirit Lake, Iowa.

“I think that as a group we have a lot going for us, especially our depth and experience. We’ll strive to improve game by game as the season progresses and prepare to make the run we are capable of,” said Lauer.

O’Gorman is looking good for this season and expecting to make a good run.

Many of Lauer’s teammates

think very highly of him.

“In the six years I have been playing with Ben our chemistry has grown and our team has learned a lot,” said fellow senior Ethan French who has been playing basketball with Lauer since 7th grade.

He is really looking forward to having a great senior year of basketball.

“I’m looking forward to coming together as a team in hopes to achieve our ultimate goal,” said Lauer. “I also am excited for the chance to play one more season with the guys, and I think we will be able to grow off of our success last year.”

Lauer has had a lot of help getting to where he is today in the basketball world.

“I owe it to my friends, coaches, teammates and especially

my family,” said Lauer. “They’ve helped me get to where I am and it’s going to be another fun season.”

Lauer just signed his letter of intent to the Minnesota State Moorhead Dragons, a Division II college program.

“The top priority right now is this season at O’Gorman. Looking forward, however, it’s very exciting to be granted the opportunity to continue my basketball career into college for a competitive program like MSUM. It will be a tremendous opportunity to grow as a player and continue my education,” said Lauer.

MSUM is located in Moorhead, Minnesota. MSUM is off to a 5-1 start already this year.

The Knights look to build on last year’s third place finish at state.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ben Lauer looks to pass against a defender. Lauer is going to play basketball at Minnesota State-Moorhead next year.

## Warriors come from behind as turnovers cost O’Gorman chance at state championship

Ethan French  
Staff Writer

Emotions were on display in the Dakota Dome on Saturday, Nov. 14 as the Knights took on the Washington Warriors for the state IIAAA title.

The Knights had picked up speed toward the championship game, after big wins over Lincoln, Aberdeen Central and Roosevelt. After sliding past Roosevelt, 27-23, the Knights had high hopes of bringing home a trophy.

On the opening drive, the Knights drove the length of the field and finished with a field goal by junior Kristian Jakowicz.

One play into the second quarter senior Dodi Makwinja scored a one yard touchdown. “We were up 10-0, but I knew we needed to focus up and finish the game because it wasn’t over yet,” said Makwinja.

Warrior Jack Schelhaas threw a touchdown to Ty Smith and tightened the game to 10-7. After taking an end around to the house just before half, senior Jack Peery extended the lead to 17-7. “We thought we had a great chance to win going into half,” said Peery.

However, tides turned when Washington capitalized on a botched snap by the Knights to start the second half. Washington scored making it 17-14. The rest of the third quarter was scoreless until senior quarterback Luke Fritsch ran in for a

three yard touchdown. “I was confident in our team, but we knew Washington was gaining momentum,” said Fritsch.

The Warriors retaliated with a quick drive capped by a 23 yard touchdown pass from Jack Schelhaas to Logan Uttecht. The lead switched over to the Warriors when Schelhaas threw another touchdown, this time to Ty Smith. The Warriors took the lead 27-24.

The Knights still had hope though, after a key turnover on downs late in the fourth. They had to drive the length of the field in about two minutes with no timeouts. An interception by linebacker Michael Enalls with 55 seconds left ended the Knights hope of capturing the title.

“The whole game was straight adrenaline. It felt like a roller coaster and emotions were high during every second of the game, said senior Nick Walker. O’Gorman was a senior heavy group this season. “This group of seniors showed outstanding leadership throughout the year, and many will have the ability to play at the college level,” said coach Steve Kueter.

There are no returning starters on offense next year. “We have talent to replace the skill positions however, and a great offensive line,” said junior Hunter Thompson. “Our all state kicker is back, which sets the tone for special teams.”

## Lady Knights claim third place at state with wins over RC Stevens, Harrisburg

Connor Bell  
Assistant Editor

With this season coming to a close the Lady Knights gave it their all for a state championship.

In the first round, the Lady Knights played Rapid City Stevens in five games with the first game a loss for the Knights 25-14. The next two went to the tune of 25-21 and 25-23 in favor of the Lady Knights. The fourth game was won by Stevens 25-20. Then the tiebreaker went to the Lady Knights 15-11.

The second round did not yield a victory for the Lady Knights against the number one ranked Aberdeen Central Golden Eagles. The Lady Knights were outscored 25-20, 25-21 and 25-17.

On Saturday the Lady Knights faced the Harris-

burg Tigers for third place, and the Lady Knights came out on top winning in just three games.

“It was a bummer that we lost to Aberdeen but we weren’t dwelling on the past and we were going to pick ourselves up and play Harrisburg,” said senior Katie Messler.

The team did not lose hope in getting a title as they bested the Harrisburg Tigers in three games with the scores being 27-25, 25-23, and 25-15.

While this is not the outcome that the seniors wanted they were still happy with a third place finish.

“It is unfortunate when you put in all of the work to succeed but it just doesn’t go your way. But it was still nice that we could end the season on a win,” said senior Kassidy Skuza.

## School welcomes new gymnastics coach as season begins with local competitions

Rebecca Clark  
Staff Writer

This year O’Gorman has a new gymnastics head coach, Skye Bork. Bork led classes at a family owned gym, Badlands Gymnastics, before graduating high school. She went to USD and was a volunteer coach for one year, assistant coach for three years, and head coach for one year for the Vermillion High School gymnastics team.

“The O’Gorman gymnastics team has a very positive reputation and longstanding legacy in the gymnastics community which I’m proud to be given the opportunity to lead,” said Bork.

“I’m excited to have the op-

portunity to work with such a wonderful group of ladies. After being away from the gym for a year, I’m thrilled to be selected to coach such a great team,” said Bork.

The season looks bright for the O’Gorman gymnastics team. “I think the rest of the season is going to be great, because we have so many great new gymnasts, and people are already learning new things and perfecting their routines,” said freshman Tabitha Hunt.

“This group of ladies has a great amount of talent, drive and experience. They have the ability to not only qualify as a team for state, but qualify a large

number of individuals as well. It will be exciting to see how the year plays out,” said Bork.

The events that O’Gorman compete in are the uneven bars, balance beam, floor and vault. “In the past O’Gorman did well in vault and floor. O’Gorman is pretty good all around, but I think our best events overall is floor and vault because many people place in those events on varsity and junior varsity,” said Hunt.

The first competition was the Sioux Falls Invite at Lincoln on December 5. The first competition with junior varsity and varsity was at OGH Power and Grace on December 10.



# Knights gear up for winter sports

## Coaches, players optimistic about upcoming seasons

Taylor Houston  
Staff Writer

### Girls Basketball

The girls basketball team has been having open gym for the past few weeks preparing for the upcoming season.

"I am very excited about this group of girls and the potential of this team" said head girls basketball coach Kent Kolsrud. Last year they finished as state-runner-up with a record of 23-2.

"We have two returning starters and many other amazing players, this will be a great season," said junior Ashlee Beacom. The season starts off against the Roosevelt Rough Riders on Friday Dec. 11. "I think we will come out playing strong," said Beacom.

The players this season are itching for the official start of practice on Nov. 30. "We have so

many good players," said Beacom.

"This team in general is going to work hard," said Kolsrud. "This year will be fun to watch"

After finishing second last year, the team as a whole wants to make it back to the tournament, give it their all, and claim the state title.

### Boys Basketball

Last year the boys finished 18-7 and came in third at the state tournament. Like the girls, the boys team has been having open gym in the early mornings.

"Win, lose, or draw, the guys are fun to be around. That makes a big difference. For the most part, the guys we are counting on are passionate about the sport and really did a lot of things to try to get us back in the hunt," said head boys basketball coach Derek Robey.

All of the coaches of boys bas-

ketball are ready to start the season off strong, and are excited for the group of guys that are planning to play.

"If we can keep early setbacks in perspective, this could be another good year for the Knights," said Robey

This year's team has ten seniors going after varsity spots. No matter how the spots are filled, this will generally be a senior dominated team.

"I hope to come out number one this season," said senior Antonio Casiello.

### Wrestling

The wrestling team has never been large, but they have many players joining or returning this upcoming year.

"The team is made up of a few kids from each grade, but this year we have a very young team," said varsity wrestling coach Matt

Lynch.

Even though they did not place in last year's season, there were a few kids who were just one or two points away from entering the state tournament.

"We hope to build up our team and take those few guys to state this coming season," said Lynch. The team as a whole is willing to work hard to get where they want to be.

"Wrestling is a sport that requires mental toughness and kids with that are not easy to come by," said Lynch.

"It all comes down to who really wants it most, we all want it," said sophomore Kenley Lamberty.

### Powerlifting

Last year the powerlifting team won state and took some numbers to nationals. In the national tournament one of the

O'Gorman students broke the national bench press record and placed fifth overall.

"We lost a lot of good guys, but the leadership within this year's team is better than ever before," said coach Chris Isaacson. The team hopes to win state again this upcoming year and take a team to the national tournament instead of just a couple lifters.

"There is a new competition in Brandon this year where there is no gear. The kids just lift raw," said Isaacson. "I'm excited to see how the kids will perform." The major tournaments this year are Brandon, the O'Gorman invite, and state.

"We have a really good group of lifters coming in. It's gonna be a good year," said Isaacson.

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# Force strong with teachers, students

## Latest *Star Wars* film brings generations together

Joe Angerhofer  
Staff Writer

Almost 40 years after *Star Wars: A New Hope* was released in 1977, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is being released later this month.

And with that release will be a flourish of new fans to the famous franchise.

The world has changed but *Star Wars* has remained the same, an exciting film franchise for all ages with heroes fighting to save the day. But, how did *Star Wars* explode into the franchise powerhouse that it is?

The series holds components that help everyone relate to its story.

"The franchise tells a story everyone wants to hear - good versus evil - with love, suffering, and good ultimately conquering evil," said English teacher and film enthusiast Jason Van Engen. "It's sort of the age old story where we want to see our heroes in tough spots but ultimately prevail."

O'Gorman band director Ben Koch expanded on how music played a big role. "As a musician I have to note that *A New Hope* ushered in a return of large orchestras and symphonic style writing in movie music. For a decade or two leading up to that, Hollywood had really started to streamline the instrumentation of scores and soundtracks, but *Star Wars* needed a big sound to match its big concept."

*Star Wars* reaches a huge audience. Space movies seem to grab people's attention because



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Skar family sits for a portrait as they are dressed in *Star Wars* costumes. From left to right: Scott Skar as Darth Vader, Atticus Skar as a Storm Trooper, Lennon Skar as Jedi Master Yoda, Mrs. Gwen Skar as Princess Leia.

of how mysterious they are.

"Space opera has been really popular over the years, and it has especially gained traction over the last few years with the reincarnated *Star Trek* franchise as well as *Guardians of the Galaxy*," said Van Engen.

More than anything, the *Star Wars* franchise has been able to capture audiences of all ages.

"Children love the idea of

space and super powers as well as great characters like Yoda and Han Solo," said Van Engen. "And in this movie, older individuals are going to love to see an aging Luke, Leia, and Han guide these younger defenders of the galaxy."

The people who were teenagers at the release of the first movie can now take their children or even grandchildren to the new *Star Wars* movie, and both can

enjoy the movie because its audience includes all ages.

"I like the futuristic aspect. The idea of futuristic knights with laser swords is cool," said Jordan Boone. The force is also a fan favorite. "Adding powers on top of everything really makes *Star Wars* magical," said Boone.

*Star Wars* changed the movie industry, with cutting edge effects, for the time, and

a soundtrack that will always live on in orchestras around the world.

"You're going to see this movie do really well at the box office," said Van Engen. "More than likely, you're looking at the new all time box office winner when it is all said and done."

The movie opens world wide on December 18.

# Hunger Games films hold true to popular book series

Joe Angerhofer  
Ethan French

Whether it is eloquent words depicting the scenario or on screen fireballs that attract your interest, *The Hunger Games* has audiences excited.

"It was a good story of overcoming unbeatable odds," said senior Ryan Westendorf.

The final installment in the popular book trilogy hit theatres in late November.

"It was just beautiful. If it was possible, I would watch it 24/7," said junior Tyler Hayes.

Suzanne Collins is the author of *The Hunger Games*. The director of the movies are Francis Lawrence and Gary Ross. There are plenty of differences between the book and the movie. Some being in-

significant such as a minor appearance discrepancy, but others are more crucial to the storyline.

The story is the same but there is change of perspective and how the information is conveyed.

The movie has several changes that alter how the story is revealed, such as when the movie uses voice overs, which cannot possibly be known or heard by Katniss. The book unveils all things through Katniss' eyes and her perspective.

President Snow plays a more prominent role on screen than in the book. He makes a speech that is heard by the tributes and he is seen speaking with Seneca Crane, the head gamemaker in the *The Hunger Games* movie.

In the movie, the tributes' scores are broadcasted for everyone to see and the

tributes are glamorized based on their score. The novel does not portray the scores boisterously, but they are still given.

The scores are still very important in both productions, because they give the sponsors an idea of who to bet on and sponsor. On the other hand, it gives the tributes insight as to who to look out for in the arena.

The arena in the book is not specified as to where it may be held, or where the setting is. The movie is clear as to the arena aspect and that the environment is controlled.

Seneca Crane is shown commanding the gamemakers what to do. An example is when he tells them to deter Katniss from the boundary in the arena with fireballs.

Some little things to consider: the cornucopia is gold in the book but it is black

steel in the movie. The novel explains that career tributes are not supposed to train for the games and contrary to that, Haymitch says they train until they are 18 in the film.

After the games in the book Peeta loses his leg in an amputation, but in the movie he does not have his leg amputated.

Though there are minor storyline discordances, the main plot follows the same overall story and there is interest in the book and to the film franchise from the public.

The book is well regarded with 17.5 million copies sold and the film is high grossing with \$408,010,692 total sales. Those numbers are just including the first book and movie from the successful series.



What was your favorite Christmas gift?



"I got a pretty cool tricked-out tricycle."  
-Gabe Dally



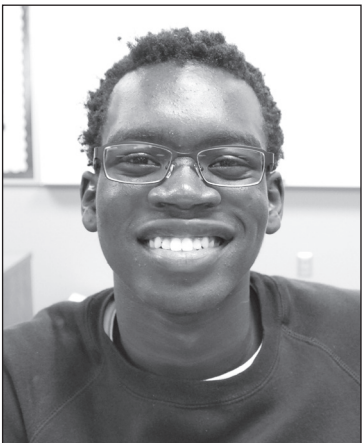
"A Disney princess TV because I got to watch TV in my room...it was pretty."  
-Jade Hansen



"My laptop, my mom gave it to me because she saw how hard I worked and thought I deserved my own."  
- Christopher Vaska



"My laptop because it's what I watch Netflix on."  
- Skyler Stencil



"Eggnog because...you know, I love eggs."  
-Kuot Mapuor

In & Out

- Christmas
- Thanksgiving
- Snow
- Freshman Drivers
- Star Wars
- Hunger Games
- Saving Money
- Knight Drive
- Holiday Sweaters
- Regular Sweaters

Deck the Halls

Aaron Steele  
Guest Cartoonist



Changes needed to fix election fatigue issue as primary season looms

Joe Angerhofer  
Staff Writer

Bring on the political ads - the election is almost here. The constant bashing of presidential candidates can really get old, and it serves as a news flash to the public of what kind of people are actually running our country. A lot of the youth today care nothing for the politics of this country - a scary thought considering in a few short years they will be the ones deciding who has their left hand on the Bible on Jan. 20. It's hard to warm up to politics when someone turns on the television to see how terrible all of the candidates running for president are. But we have to stay strong in order to maintain our great democracy.

People around the world sacrifice their lives for the chance that their children might have the opportunity to vote for a leader. That way they will not have to deal with the oppression that they, their parents, and all those that came before them had been put through. If a mutual respect cannot be achieved, then regulations should be put in place. These would limit the amount of time that the ads could run and hopefully diminish the cheap shots candidates take. The process isn't going to change right away. Every four years the ads will start again and the people will learn all the deep, dark secrets of those ambitious enough to enter the run for the White House. But, don't be intimidated. Good lies in the hearts of the right candidates.





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